

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 11 to 19 are pending in this application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 11 to 13, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,731,516 (Handfield et al., hereinafter Handfield). An embodiment according to applicants' invention is directed at a transducer unit for use in a tire pressure monitoring system for a vehicle. The transponder unit receives wireless signals from a number of remote tire pressure sensors, generates a coded signal which identifies the transponder unit and the location of the respective tires, and transmits the coded signal as a wireless coded signal to a remote receiver.

In contrast, Handfield discloses a purported "transponder" comprising a pressure sensor, a detector and a transmitter. However, it is clear from Figures 4 to 7 and from the associated description that the pressure sensor, the detector and the transmitter are housed together and are in direct electrical connection.

Accordingly, claim 11 has been amended to clarify the invention and distinguish it from the disclosure of Handfield et al. Claim 11 now requires that the transponder unit comprises "a receiver for receiving ... transmitted wireless signals from ... individual pressure sensors" and "a transmitter for transmitting [a] wireless coded signal to a remote receiver".

The transponder unit defined by claim 11 allows a remote receiver in a vehicle cab to distinguish between wireless signals from the remote pressure sensors of an attached vehicle trailer and other pressure sensors without the need for individual registration of

each pressure sensor every time the vehicle trailer is changed. Instead, only registration of the transponder unit is required when the vehicle trailer is changed.

Handfield neither discloses nor suggests a transponder unit capable of receiving wireless signals from pressure sensors and transmitting a wireless signal to a remote receiver. It is thus respectfully submitted that Handfield does not anticipate claim 11. Claims 12, 13, 16 and 17 depend on and incorporate independent claim 11, and are allowable for the same reason as discussed above with regard to claim 11, and are further allowable in view of the additional limitations set forth therein.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Handfield. Claims 15, 18, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Handfield in view of WO 96/15919 (McClelland). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Handfield, McClelland, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,513,524 (Rosenfield).

Claims 14, 15, 18 and 19 depend on and incorporate independent claim 11, and require that the transponder unit comprises “a receiver for receiving ... transmitted wireless signals from ... individual pressure sensors” and “a transmitter for transmitting [a] wireless coded signal to a remote receiver”. As described above, the inventive transponder unit allows a remote receiver in a vehicle cab to distinguish between wireless signals from the remote pressure sensors of an attached vehicle trailer and other pressure sensors without the need for individual registration of each pressure sensor every time the vehicle trailer is changed. Instead, only registration of the transponder unit is required when the vehicle trailer is changed. None of the above-cited prior art documents disclose or suggest

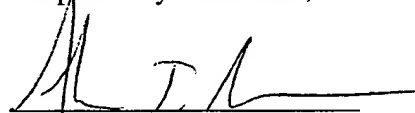
such an arrangement.

Furthermore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have no motivation to consider such an arrangement because transmitter/receiver applications do not usually have intermediate transponders. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 14, 15, 18 and 19 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the amended claims and a notice of allowance are therefore requested. It is believed that a one month extension of time is required for this matter. Applicant hereby petitions for same and requests that any extension or other fee required for timely consideration of this application be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4972. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if any matters remain outstanding so that they may be resolved expeditiously.

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Respectfully submitted,



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